

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PL (FORD GERALD R.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO POLAND: PUBLIC STATEMENTS

- DINNER TOAST

REFS: A. STATE 165672; B. WARSAW 4462

1. THE UNITED STATES HAS ENTERED THE 200TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE. TWO CENTURIES BEFORE TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO ARRIVED TO OFFER HIS SERVICES TO GEORGE WASHINGTON IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, A POLISH POET EVOKED AN ELOQUENT VISION OF THE NEW WORLD: HAPPY ISLES -- HEROIC LAND OF BLISS, KNOWN TO OUR COUNTRY LONG ERE THIS.

2. THUS, MANY YEARS BEFORE OUR TWO PEOPLES WERE UNITED BY THE CAUSE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY, POLAND AND THE UNITED STATES WERE DRAWN TOGETHER. THE GEOGRAPHIC SEPARATION, DIVERGENCE OF HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE, AND THE BARRIERS OF LANGUAGE RETREATED BEFORE THE COMMON IDEALS AND PURPOSES WHICH WE HAVE ALWAYS SHARED. OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS DEEPER ROOTS THAN THE SACRIFICES WHICH WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER ON THE BATTLE-FIELDS OF BOTH EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

3. OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IS THE INSPIRATION WE CAN DRAW FROM POLAND'S LONG TRADITION OF SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT. YOUR HISTORY AND YOUR PEOPLE HAVE ENRICHED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN NATION IN THE LAST TWO CENTURIES. NOW WE BEGIN TO SEE WHY.

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4. POLAND HAS STOOD TALL AMONG THE WORLD'S NATIONS AS A

CENTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS. KING CASIMIR THE GREAT WAS A MODEL OF ENLIGHTENED STATESMANSHIP FOR FUTURE LEADERS IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW WORLDS. HIS GREATEST LEGACY, THE JAGELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, IS A SYMBOL OF POLISH CULTURE WHICH HAS ATTRACTED MANY AMERICAN STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS. THE DISCOVERIES OF COPERNICUS OPENED THE DOOR TO THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE, A TRADITION WHICH OUR ASTRONAUTS CONTINUE TODAY. THE EXPERIMENTS OF MADAME SKLODOWSKA-CURIE HAVE RELIEVED THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF OUR SICK. AMERICANS ESTEEM THE MUSIC OF FREDERICK CHOPIN AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CREATIVITY AND SPIRIT OF POLISH COMPOSERS. IGNACY PADEREWSKI, HIMSELF A MUSICIAN OF DISTINCTION, WON THE ADMIRATION OF PRESIDENT WILSON IN THEIR SHARED COMMITMENT TO THE REEMERGENCE OF INDEPENDENT POLAND AFTER WORLD WAR I. THE POLISH WRITER, JULIAN NIEMCEWICZ, VISITED THE UNITED STATES EARLY IN ITS HISTORY AND WROTE THE FIRST BIOGRAPHY OF HIS FRIEND, GEORGE WASHINGTON. HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ, POLAND'S FIRST NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATE, CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND FURTHER DEEPENED THE CULTURAL TIES WHICH LINK OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. THESE EXAMPLES OF POLAND'S HISTORICAL GIANTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN GREATER SUBSTANCE AND MEANING BY THE MILLIONS OF POLES, MOST OF VERY HUMBLE ORIGIN, WHO CAME TO OUR COUNTRY IN THE LAST TWO CENTURIES. THEY CAME AS REFUGEES FROM OPPRESSION AND POVERTY, USUALLY WITH ONLY THE POSSESSION WHICH THEY COULD CARRY WITH THEM. HOWEVER, WITH EXTRAORDINARY ENERGY AND TALENT, THEY WENT TO WORK ALONGSIDE OTHER IMMIGRANTS IN BUILDING AMERICANS'S GREAT CITIES AND IN TRANSFORMING OUR VAST PLAINS INTO RICH FARMLAND. TO THEM, IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE GRATEFUL, FOR IT IS THEIR EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH, INDEED, ARE THE TRUE MESSAGE OF THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL.

6. THE POLES WHO CAME TO AMERICA BROUGHT NOT ONLY THEIR AFFINITY FOR HARD WORK, BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, THEY ENRICHED OUR NATION WITH THE IDEALISM, THE FAITH, AND THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY WHICH HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED THE PEOPLE OF POLAND. THEIR BELIEF IN THE INHERENT WORTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND IN MANKIND'S UNIVERSAL SEARCH FOR PEACE
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HAS SPECIAL RELEVANCE IN TODAY'S WORLD.

7. IT IS THIS VISION, WHICH HAS BURNED IN POLISH HEARTS FROM THE DAYS OF KOSCIUSZKO AND PULASKI UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME, THAT HELPED TO REALIZE THE DREAMS AND AMBITIONS OF THE YOUNG AMERICAN NATION 200 YEARS AGO. TO POLES, PAST AND PRESENT, WHO HAVE CEASELESSLY GIVEN OF THEMSELVES IN THE SEARCH FOR A BETTER WORLD FOR US AND FOR OUR CHILDREN, I

PROPOSE A TOAST OF IMMENSE GRATITUDE AND HUMBLE RESPECT.
DAVIES

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